

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands held Public Hearings for the 2014 Budget and Special Districts and a Special Meeting on Monday, November 4, 2013 at Town Hall, 254 Main Street, Highland Falls at 7:00pm.

PRESENT:	Mervin R. Livsey	----	Supervisor
	William Edsall	----	Council Member
	June Gunza	----	Council Member
	Holly Gokey	----	Council Member
	Kelly Blauvelt	----	Comptroller
	Justin Rider	----	Counsel
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk

The Supervisor stated that the following public hearings were advertised and that public comment will be limited to 3 minutes per person. The Supervisor said the purpose of the public hearings is to hear comments on the issues and he would not allow any debating. The Supervisor said that there was a lot of work put into the budget and there is a minimal increase from last year. The Supervisor also stated that a lot of time was put into the water points trying to correct some things.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2014 BUDGET

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to open the public hearing for the 2014 Budget. Public Hearing opened at 7:05pm.

Public Comment:

AnnMarie Feducia asked what was cut out of the Senior Program line and about the Senior Center.

Supervisor Livsey informed Ms. Feducia that \$1,000 was cut from Other Expenses which isn't used much. The Supervisor also told Ms. Feducia that the Town cannot put money in their budget for a Village owned building, but would be willing to help in other ways, perhaps with grants, etc.

Ms. Blauvelt said the money was reduced because only about \$8,000 is spent from that line.

Ed Magryta said he would like the Board to provide the public with the source of the Unexpended Fund Balance.

Annie Scott thanked the Board for their hard work with the budget.

TOWN BOARD

NOVEMBER 4, 2013

Mr. Magryta questioned whether there were specific rules for the Tax Stabilization Fund and asked if they were being followed.

Supervisor Livsey said that according to the Attorney and Comptroller they were being followed.

Supervisor Livsey explained that nothing would be adopted tonight. The Supervisor said the adoptions would take place at the November 18 meeting of the Town Board.

Supervisor Livsey asked Ms. Blauvelt to begin her presentation.

Ms. Blauvelt gave a Power Point presentation which explained the budget.

Supervisor Livsey thanked Ms. Blauvelt and asked the Board if they had any comments.

Supervisor Livsey explained about the Court revenue. The Supervisor said in the previous year the Court brought in \$400,000 and it was anticipated that with the addition of a part-time clerk that number could possibly be increased. The Supervisor said that didn't happen, but that is how the number was decided.

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to close the public hearing. Public hearing closed at 7:25pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-ayes (Livsey Edsall, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays
1-absent (Stradley)

PUBLIC HEARING – FORT MONTGOMERY LIGHT DISTRICT

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to open the public hearing. Public hearing opened at 7:26pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-ayes (Livsey Edsall, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays
1-absent (Stradley)

Supervisor Livsey said the Board will not be approving anything until the Town Board meeting on November 18 and encouraged the public to contact him if they have any questions.

Public Comment

Dave Tonneson questioned the Board about the 10% administration fee and the addition of the point system.

TOWN BOARD

NOVEMBER 4, 2013

Supervisor Livsey said Mr. Tonneson had a valid point and he would like to sit down to discuss this with him.

Mr. Tonneson asked if the Board would eliminate the 10%.

Mr. Rider said the law allows for a surcharge up to 10%.

Annie Scott said it looks like District 1 and District 2 are set up differently said Hudson View is taking on most of the cost. Ms. Scott said she would be happy to discuss this.

Supervisor Livsey said he understands it is a drastic change and he is willing to sit and talk about it.

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to close the public hearing. Public hearing closed at 7:37pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey Edsall, Gunza, Gokey)

0-nays

1-absent (Stradley)

PUBLIC HEARING – WATER DISTRICT #2

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to open the public hearing. Public hearing opened at 7:37pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey Edsall, Gunza, Gokey)

0-nays

1-absent (Stradley)

Public Comment

Dave Tonneson said the Town Board and Mr. Squicciarini did an excellent job getting water to the Fort Montgomery Post Office.

Tom Armstrong stated that he received a letter informing him that his points went up, but the bill doesn't add up.

Ms. Blauvelt explained that there is a flat fee charged for the first 5,000 gallons and then the charge is per thousand gallons.

Supervisor Livsey advised Mr. Armstrong to stop and see Ms. Blauvelt for a more detailed explanation.

TOWN BOARD

NOVEMBER 4, 2013

Jim Conley asked when he could come in to discuss this.

Supervisor Livsey said Ms. Blauvelt is in her office about 8 hours a day.

Ms. Scott said she believes there should be a better point system for the litigants because they have already paid for one-half of the district.

Resident from Corbin Hill asked about the water points.

Supervisor Livsey said the Town is hoping to take over Corbin Hill water.

Ms. Scott asked if the Village had increased the amount of water they were selling to the Town.

Supervisor Livsey said the Town is receiving 125,000 gallons and Mr. Squicciarini said only about 40,000 gallons is being used.

Ned Kopald asked what the status of the water line to the Fort School was.

Mr. Rider stated that the line has been run to Brooks Ln and an agreement is in the works with the school. Mr. Rider further stated it will be expensive to run the pipeline from Brooks Ln to the school, but cheaper to run it from Corbin Hill. Mr. Rider said the Town is trying to get the best result for everyone.

Supervisor Livsey explained what the points mean in the Point System.

Mr. Conley asked what has been spent already.

Mr. Rider said that 1.143 million has been spent.

Supervisor Livsey stated that the Settlement is going to match that and his door is open for any questions.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to close the public hearing. Public hearing closed at 8:03pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-ayes (Livsey Edsall, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays
1-absent (Stradley)

PUBLIC HEARING – SEWER DISTRICT

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to open the public hearing. Public hearing opened at 8:04pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-ayes (Livsey Edsall, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays
1-absent (Stradley)

Council Member Edsall asked if this was the last year to pay.

Ms. Blauvelt said not until 2015.

Public Comment

Mr. Schaut asked if the increase in the water points would affect the sewer charges.

Supervisor Livsey explained that one does not affect the other.

Mr. Tonneson asked if the Board had thought about Doug Willis retiring and had they considered getting someone hired and trained.

Supervisor Livsey said that is definitely a concern.

Ms. Scott said Robert Scott's points are doubling.

Mr. Hager said that is because water is now available to his properties.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to close the public hearing. Public hearing closed at 8:13pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-ayes (Livsey Edsall, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays
1-absent (Stradley)

REGULAR MEETING

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

TOWN BOARD

NOVEMBER 4, 2013

MINUTES

None

FINANCIAL

Accounts Payable:

Supervisor Livsey reported that the Trust & Agency payments totaled \$443; the Water District #2 payments totaled \$819; and the General payments totaled \$26,166.17.

BOARD REPORTS

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

Goosetown Communications:

Council Member Gunza said that Goosetown Communications has informed the Town that some adjustments need to be made at the tower site. Ms. Gunza said they also recommended hard wiring into the county.

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to authorize \$1,260 to be spend by Goosetown Communications for the tower site.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey Edsall, Gunza, Gokey)

0-nays

1-absent (Stradley)

Building Department:

Council Member Edsall asked Mr. Hager for a written update on the violations.

ADJOURN

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey Edsall, Gunza, Gokey)

0-nays

1-absent (Stradley)

Attest,